

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



June 24, 2010

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1514
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Dear Commissioner Smith:

Section 20.055, Florida Statutes, requires the Inspector General to issue a six month follow-up of audits performed by the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA).

The attached Department's six month response regarding report number 10-01 *Most AA Graduates Pursue Baccalaureate Degrees, But Many Lack Information About Articulation Policies* issued by OPPAGA is for your information. If you have any questions, please contact me at 245-9418.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ed W. Jordan".

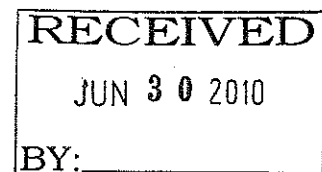
Ed W. Jordan

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Attachment

c: OPPAGA

Florida Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
Chancellor Will Holcombe



ED W. JORDAN, CIG, CIA, CFE
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor
Division of Florida Colleges



June 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Jordan, Inspector General

FROM: Dr. Judith Bilsky, Acting Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges
Dr. Heather Sherry, Director, Office of Articulation *HPS*

SUBJECT: OPPAGA Report 10.01- Six Month Follow-Up

As per your memorandum dated May 26, 2010, which requested a six month follow-up to the OPPAGA Report *Most AA Graduates Pursue Baccalaureate Degrees, but Many Lack Information About Articulation Policies*, the Division of Florida Colleges and the Office of Articulation have worked collaboratively to provide the following update of activities since the Department's initial response dated December 28, 2009.

- On February 22, 2010, the Division of Florida Colleges, in cooperation with the Office of Articulation, issued an excess hours advisory statement for incoming college students as required by s. 1009.286(5), F.S.
- In June 2010, The Florida College System Council of Presidents, Council of Instructional Affairs, and Council for Student Affairs supported revisions to the existing advising guideline that requires students to identify a "transfer program" at the point of accumulating 24 college credit hours to assist with 2+2 advising. Discussions included the importance of maintaining contact with students as they progress towards their degree to ensure they are well prepared for and informed about the transition to the baccalaureate degree. It was also stressed that the student should be advised to contact the transfer college or university well before they complete their degree to determine the likelihood of admission.
- The Department, in coordination with the Office of the Board of Governors, has been actively discussing the 2+2 agreement in anticipation of updating the Statewide Articulation Agreement. Recommendations will be made by the Articulation Coordinating Committee to the newly

THE *Florida*
COLLEGE SYSTEM

established Higher Education Coordinating Council. It is anticipated that both boards, State Board of Education and Board of Governors, will approve and sign the agreement to reaffirm commitment to 2+2.

- The Common Prerequisite Project resulted in the review of all baccalaureate program prerequisites and updates were made to the courses when deemed appropriate by faculty discipline committees. The changes were communicated to all colleges and universities and are currently reflected in the *2010-11 Common Prerequisite Manual*.
- The Department developed web-based forms for students and institutions to submit issues or suggestions for common prerequisites. These forms will be used to monitor articulation problems and identify areas in need of revision.
- The Division of Florida Colleges continues to develop articulation agreements with nonpublic institutions, including new agreements with DeVry University and Western Governors University.
- The State Board of Education continues to approve baccalaureate degrees for Florida colleges and, while enrollment is rising, it remains a small percentage of overall college enrollment.

JB/HS/h